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Question for the Record Submitted by
the Honorable Jim Lightfoot
to Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
May 5, 1994

Q2D

Question

3. Did we strike a deal with the French to support the Rwanda operation in exchange for French support of peacekeeping missions in Haiti and Liberia?

Answer

No. As members of the Security Council, the United States and France discussed the creation of a peacekeeping operation in Rwanda and the French were clearly in favor of moving forward. However, there was no "deal" to trade support for operations in Rwanda for those in Liberia or Haiti.

The United States examined the case for a peacekeeping operation in Rwanda and found that the circumstances warranted our support. The parties had agreed to a cease-fire and to implement a comprehensive peace plan after three years of civil war. Indeed, a joint team from the Government of Rwanda and the Rwanda Patriotic Front travelled to New York and to capitals to lobby in favor of the operation. A number of nations had indicated their willingness to participate in the peacekeeping operation. Until the tragic events that have recently enveloped Rwanda, this appeared to be a peacekeeping operation with a very good chance of success.

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been
have we ^{been} had this long policy ourselves now or
~~of~~ reviewing this policy, but there is no doubt
1385 mind that our action is spurring other governments --
1386 approach the peacekeeping in a more organized way. And our
1387 criteria are very obviously interesting to everybody else
1388 since we have a veto over peacekeeping operations, but also
1389 *I think our actions are* being regarded by the U.N. and other Security Council
1390 members as a helpful guide for ~~deciding~~ ^{understanding} that we can't just
1391 have proliferation, one operation after another.
1392 Mr. LIGHTFOOT. How many of those have you supported?
1393 Ambassador ALBRIGHT. We have supported them.
1394 Mr. LIGHTFOOT. All of them.
1395 Ambassador ALBRIGHT. Yes, we have.
1396 Mr. LIGHTFOOT. On the Rwanda thing, before we leave that,
1397 at any point during the consideration of supporting that
1398 particular operation, was there any concern raised that the
1399 French, their support, and Haiti and Libya could possibly
1400 have some dependence on whether or not we got involved in
1401 Rwanda? Was that any part of the decision-making process or
1402 not?
1403 Mr. BENNET. Let me try to answer that question. I can't
1404 answer specifically with respect to Rwanda, but on the
1405 question of whether there is sort of a trading that goes on,
1406 that is not--that we have not seen. What there is, however,
1407 is--Ambassador Albright said it earlier when she was talking

1409 circles of concern. Those circles are different
 1410 for different countries, and the French may have a circle of

1411 concern of their own that gives greater intensity to one
 1412 thing than we might.

1412 But the net effect is that when you look from the Security
 1413 Council's point of view at a world that is insecure, you
 1414 find yourself saying, Yes, it really would have been a
 1415 mistake not to go into Rwanda. And I have been there, as I
 1416 said earlier, and my view of that peacekeeping operation is
 1417 that it was in fact very well conceived.

1418 There was a peace accord, the Ixusha accord where the
 1419 parties agreed to stop fighting and set up a transitional
 1420 government. The peacekeeping operations seemed to have been
 1421 well designed for the particular needs of the country, was
 1422 not excessively large, I thought was well manned. I was
 1423 impressed with the Canadian general who was operating, who
 1424 is still in Kigali today. It looked pretty good.

1425 And what happened there--and was showing some of the
 1426 disciplines that Ambassador Albright talked about--what
 1427 happened was the basic assumption changed, that is the
 1428 airplane crashed, and instead of having a government coming
 1429 together, a transitional government coming together, you had
 1430 a totally unanticipated humanitarian crisis to which I might
 1431 also say I think the U.N. is now responding, as it can. The
 1432 U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees' operation moved into